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University of the State of New York
State Education Dept.
New York State Library
Library Extension Division

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN NEW YORK STATE

January
1960

LIBRARY SCIENCE LIBRARY

Return this book on or before the
Latest Date stamped below.

Theft, mutilation, and underlining of books are reasons for disciplinary action and may result in dismissal from the University.

University of Illinois Library

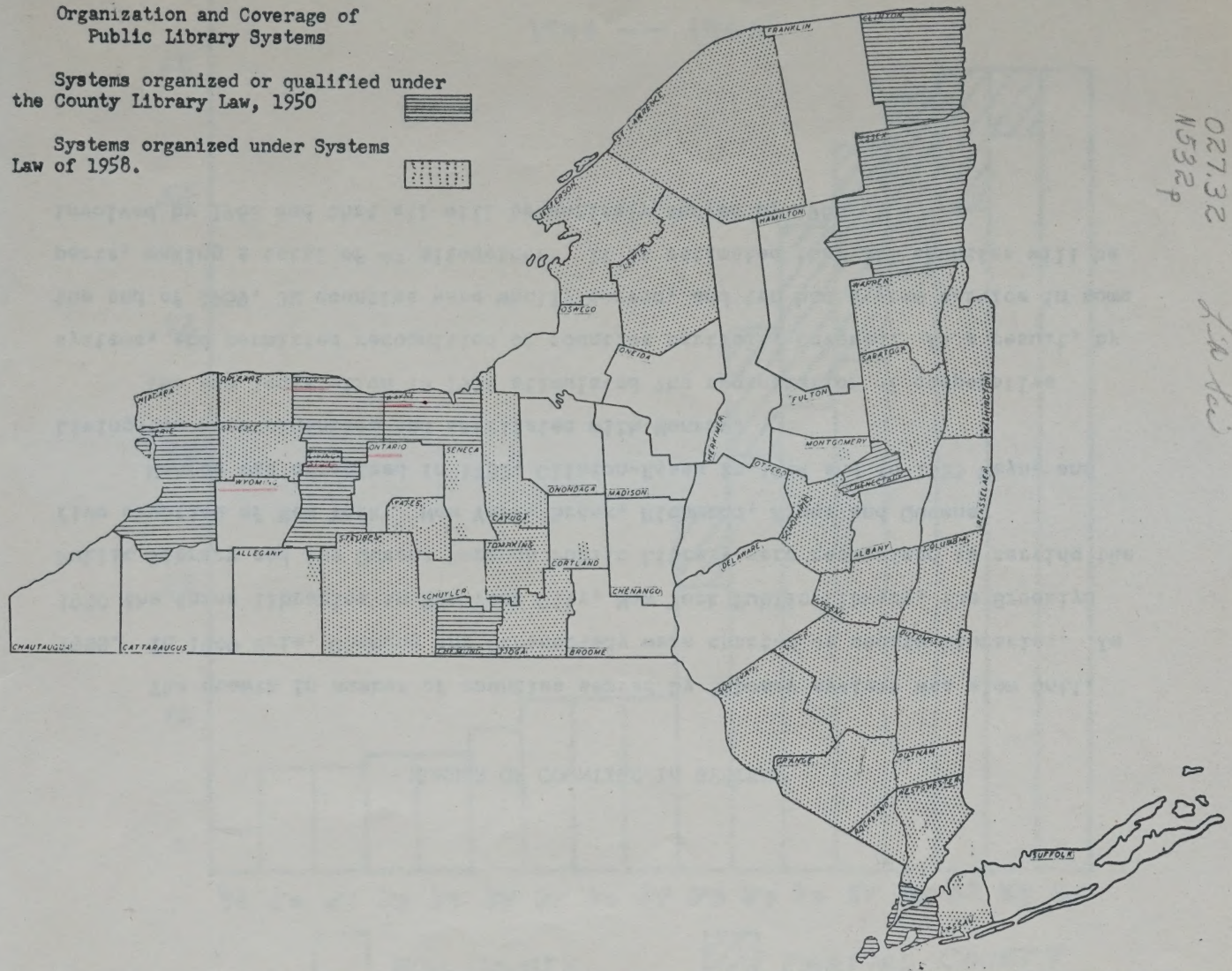
AUG 6 1964
~~OCT 14 1965~~
MAR 25 1969
~~MAR 23 1970~~
~~JUN 9 1972~~

L161—O-1096

Organization and Coverage of
Public Library Systems

Systems organized or qualified under the County Library Law, 1950

Systems organized under Systems Law of 1958.



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ORGANIZATION AND COVERAGE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Legislation providing state aid for county and multi-county library systems was enacted in 1950. The five counties of New York City, plus Erie and Chemung counties, being already organized immediately qualified. Subsequently Schenectady, Clinton-Essex, and Monroe-Wayne-Livingston were organized and qualified.

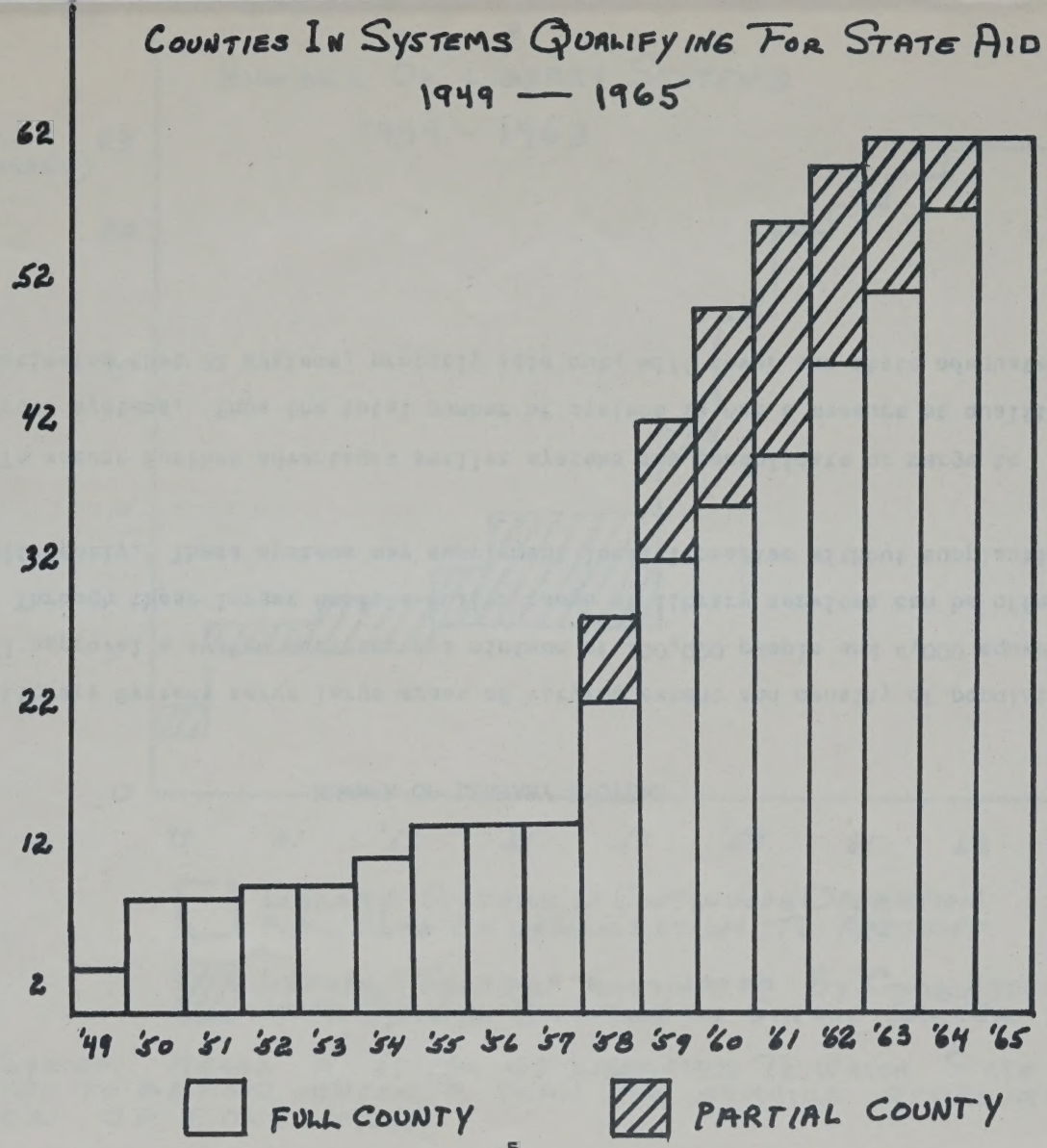
Legislation in 1958 incorporating recommendations of the Bergan Committee report permitted cooperative systems to be organized without requiring authorization of county boards of supervisors, and increased the amount of aid available. As a result, in 1958-59, nine new systems were organized. One, Schenectady, expanded to include Schoharie and parts of Montgomery counties.

NUMBER OF COUNTIES IN SYSTEMS

The growth in number of counties served by library systems was slow until 1958. In 1949 Erie, Chemung and Schenectady were charted as county libraries. In 1950 the three libraries in New York City, New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library and the Queens Borough Public Library were recognized as serving the five counties of New York: New York, Bronx, Richmond, Kings and Queens.

Monroe was organized in 1952, Clinton-Essex in 1954 and in 1955 Wayne and Livingston were organized and affiliated with Monroe.

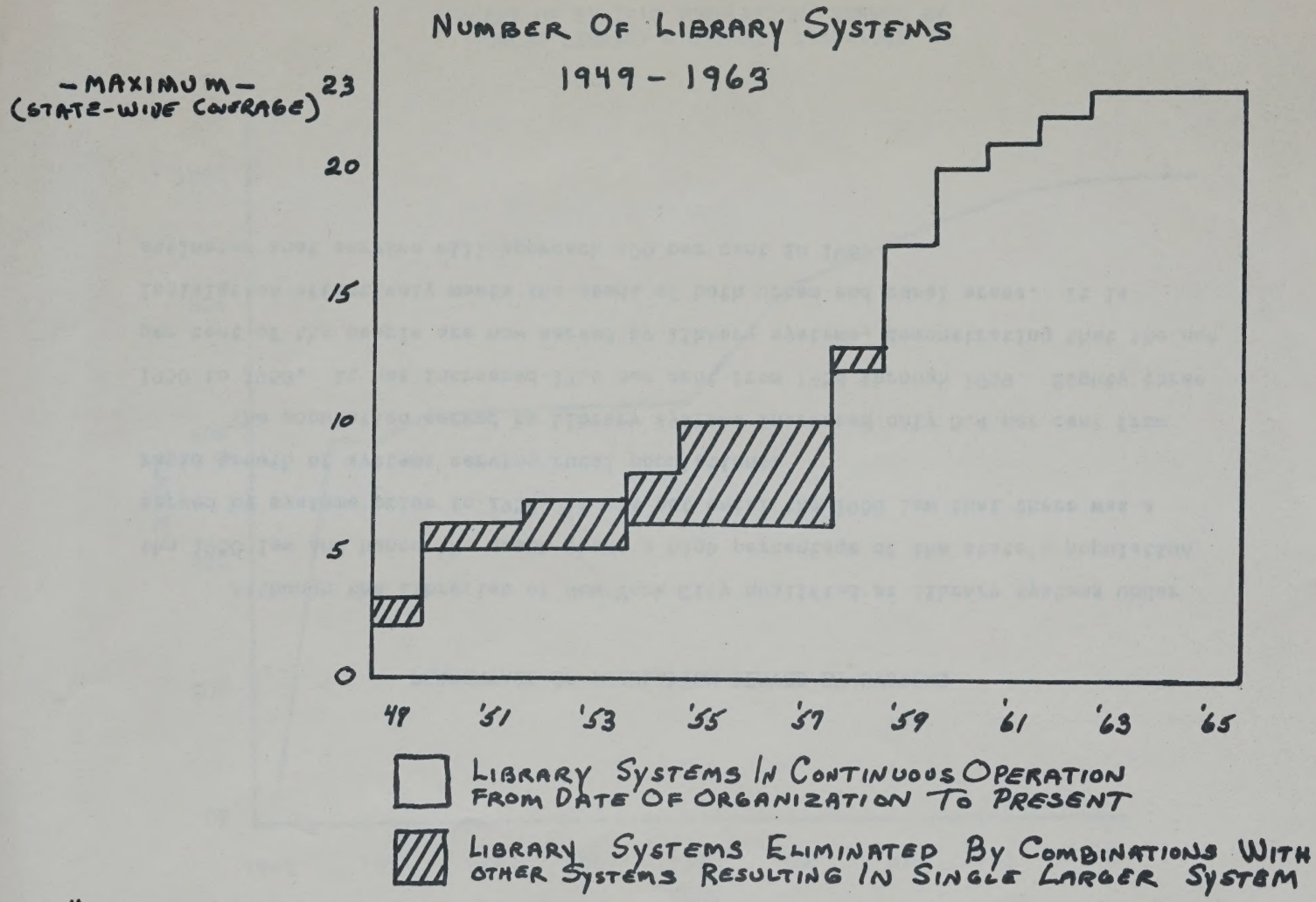
The new legislation in 1958 stimulated the organization of cooperative systems, and permitted recognition of counties partially covered. As a result, by the end of 1959, 32 counties were wholly served, and ten had system service in some parts, making a total of 42 altogether. It is estimated that all counties will be involved by 1963 and that all will be entirely served by 1965.


COUNTIES IN SYSTEMS QUALIFYING FOR STATE AID
1949 — 1965
62
52
42
32
22
12
2
'49 '50 '51 '52 '53 '54 '55 '56 '57 '58 '59 '60 '61 '62 '63 '64 '65
FULL COUNTY
PARTIAL COUNTY

NUMBER OF LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Library Systems serve large areas of varying extent and density of population. For full approval a system must serve a minimum of 200,000 people and 4,000 square miles. Through these larger units a fuller range of library services can be offered more efficiently. These systems may supplement local libraries without supplanting them.

To secure further advantages smaller systems may consolidate or merge to form larger systems. Thus the total number of systems is not a measure of quality. It is estimated that 23 systems, properly laid out, will cover the state adequately.



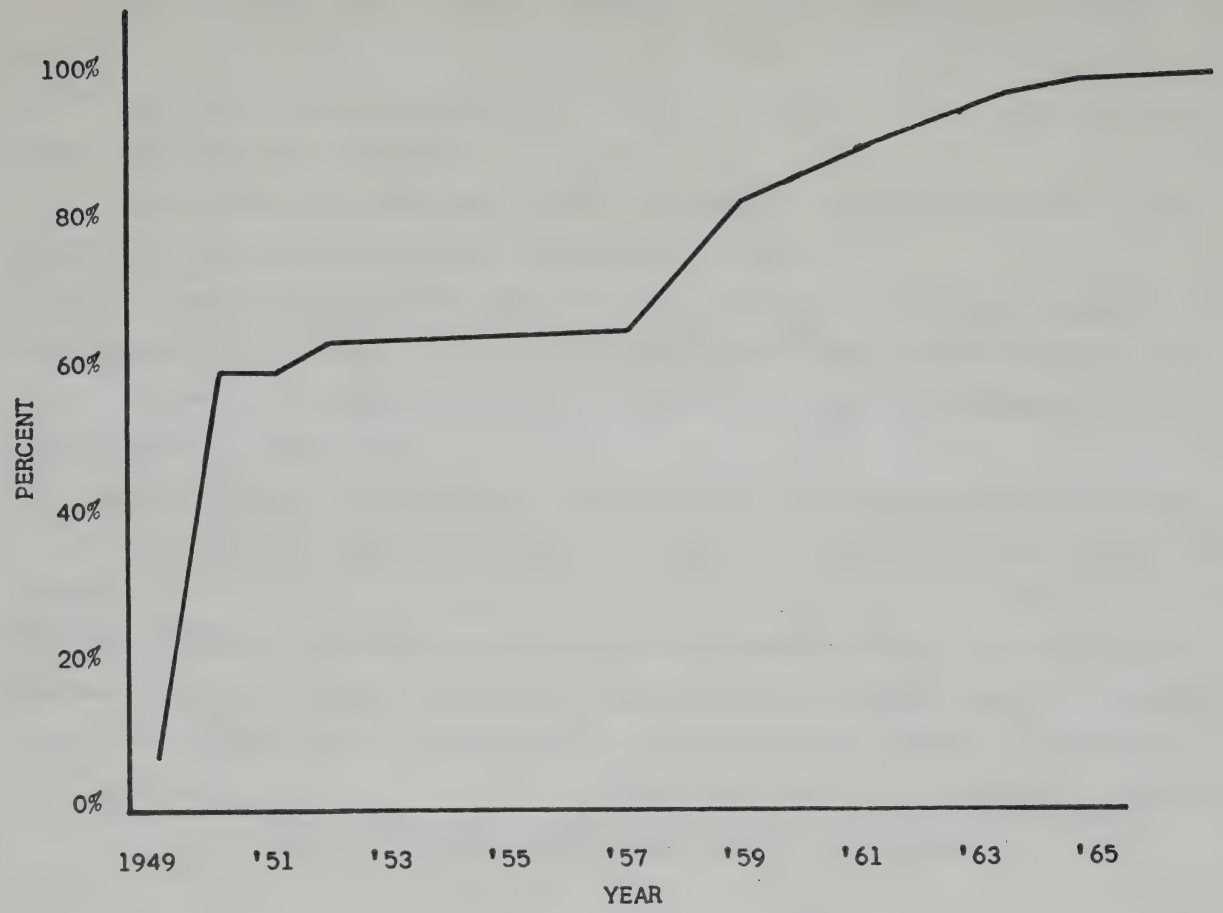
A "LIBRARY SYSTEM" MEANS A SYSTEM OF LIBRARIES TO WHICH STATE AID IS PAID, OR IS EXPECTED TO BE PAID, UNDER A PLAN OF SERVICE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION SERVED BY SYSTEMS

Although the libraries of New York City qualified as library systems under the 1950 law and hence the graph shows a high percentage of the state's population served by systems prior to 1958, it was not until the 1958 law that there was a rapid growth of systems serving rural populations.

The population served by Library systems increased only 5.4 per cent from 1950 to 1958. It has increased 17.6 per cent from 1958 through 1959. Eighty three per cent of the people are now served by library systems, demonstrating that the new legislation effectively meets the needs of both urban and rural areas. It is estimated that service will approach 100 per cent in 1965.

PERCENT OF STATE'S POPULATION[1] SERVED BY
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS, 1949-1965



1. Based on 1950 census.

STATE AID UNDER PRESENT AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Prior to 1950 state aid to local public libraries was a maximum of $100 per library or branch. In 1950 legislation was passed to give county or multi-county systems up to 22 1/2 cents per capita, plus establishment grants and annual grants in units of $5,000, depending on the number of counties involved, and completely covered.

Legislation in 1958 modified the formula to provide 25 cents per capita and allowances for initial establishment, annual grants for each county, and for the square miles of area served.

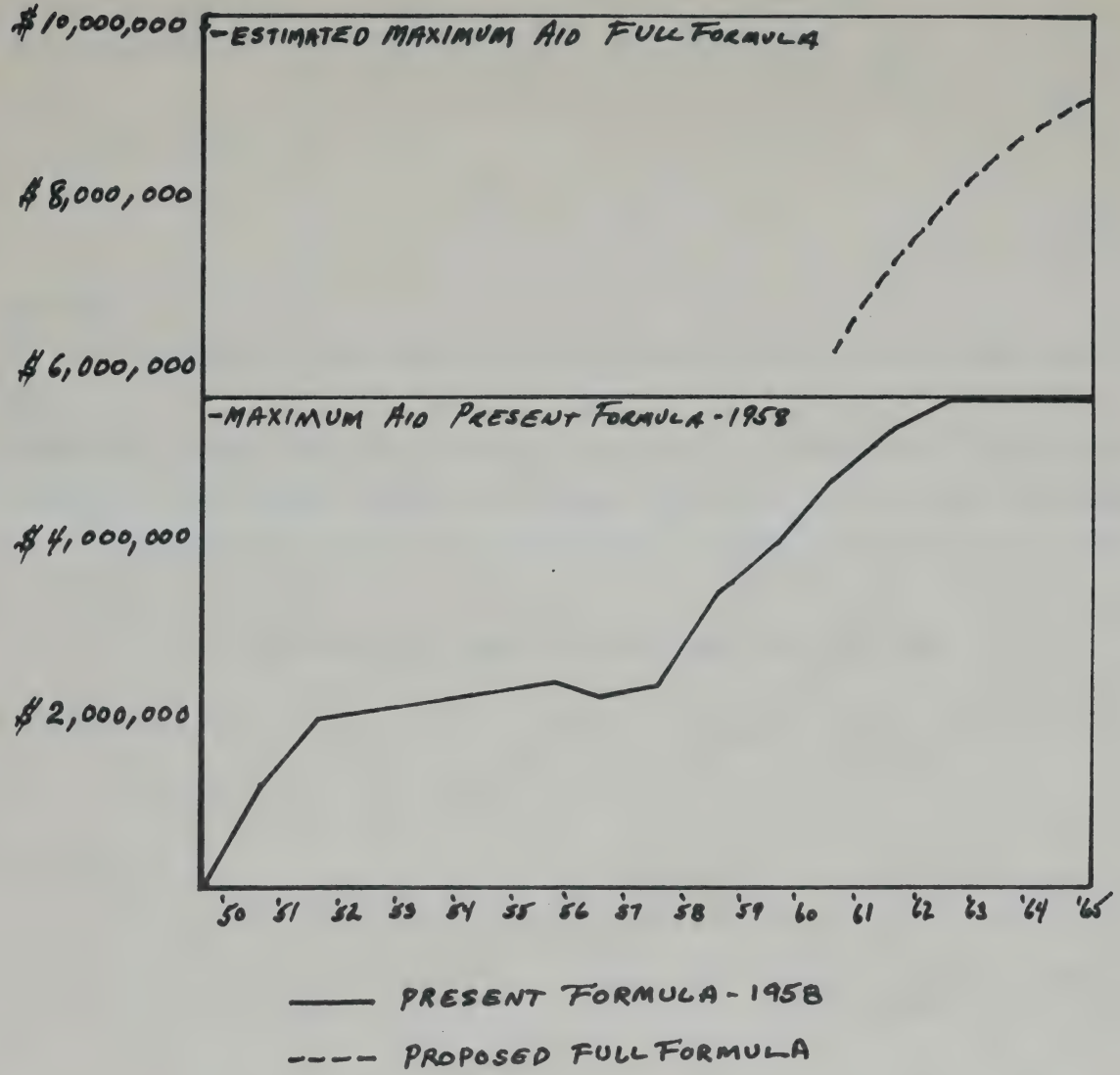
The report of the Commissioner's Committee on Public Library Service had recommended in 1957 a formula of 30 cents per capita, plus matching of book funds up to a maximum of 50 cents per capita. This formula also included increased establishment and annual grants for multi-county service.

The Regents have endorsed the full formula and legislation to put it into effect this year has been drawn.

The maximum cost of the present formula is estimated to be 5 1/2 million in 1962.

The increased cost of the full formula in the coming year is estimated to be $1,600,000. The maximum will not be reached in the near future.

STATE AID EXPENDITURES—PRESENT AND PROPOSED



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY

BORROWING OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKS FOR HOME USE

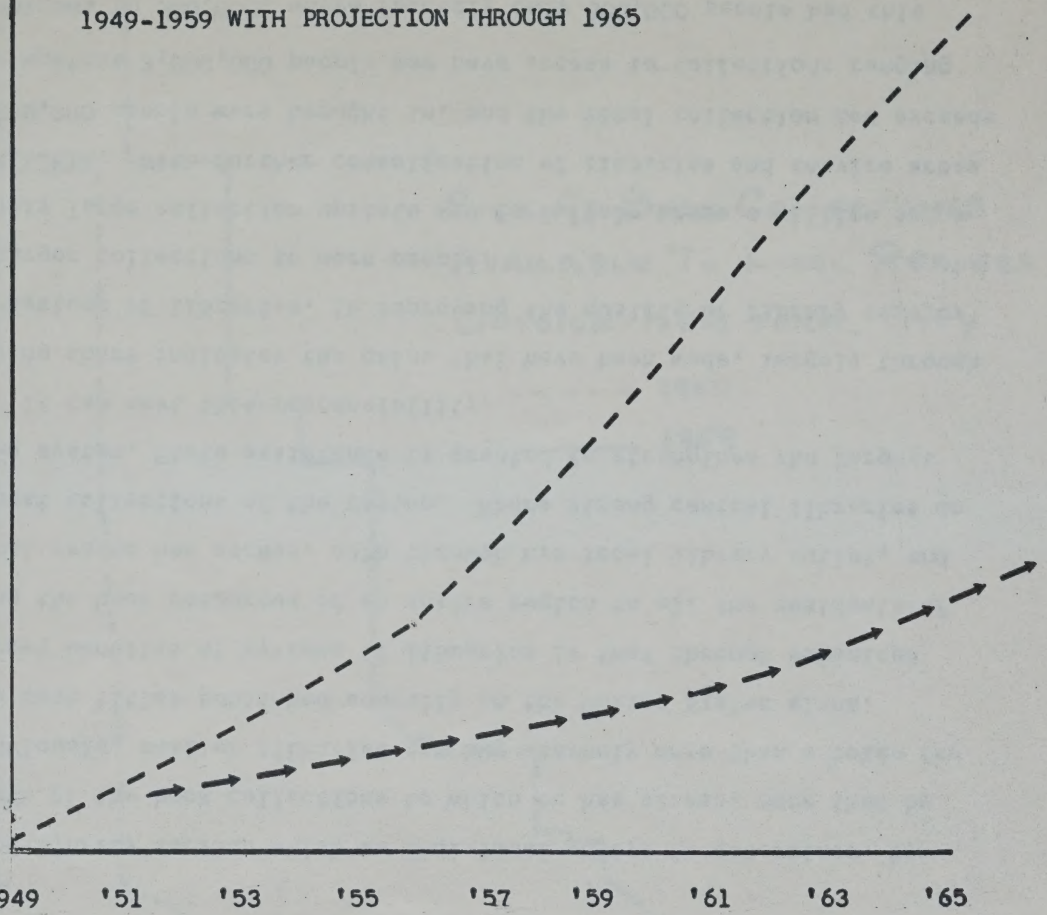
Circulation of books is a simple index of library activity. It is also a measure of the readers judgment of quality, for if he does not find good books, he will not borrow them. To an extent, circulation is a measure of efficiency as well.

It is evident that circulation is growing much more rapidly than reader population.

CIRCULATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKS

1949-1959 WITH PROJECTION THROUGH 1965

BOOK CIRCULATION (MILLIONS)	POPULATION (MILLIONS)	INCREASE %
90	31.5	125%
80	28.0	100%
70	24.5	75%
60	21.0	50%
50	17.5	25%
40	14.0	-



— — — BOOK CIRCULATION SOURCE N.Y.S. LIBRARY, LIBRARY EXTENSION DIVISION

→ → NYS POPULATION SOURCE N.Y.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS REVIEW

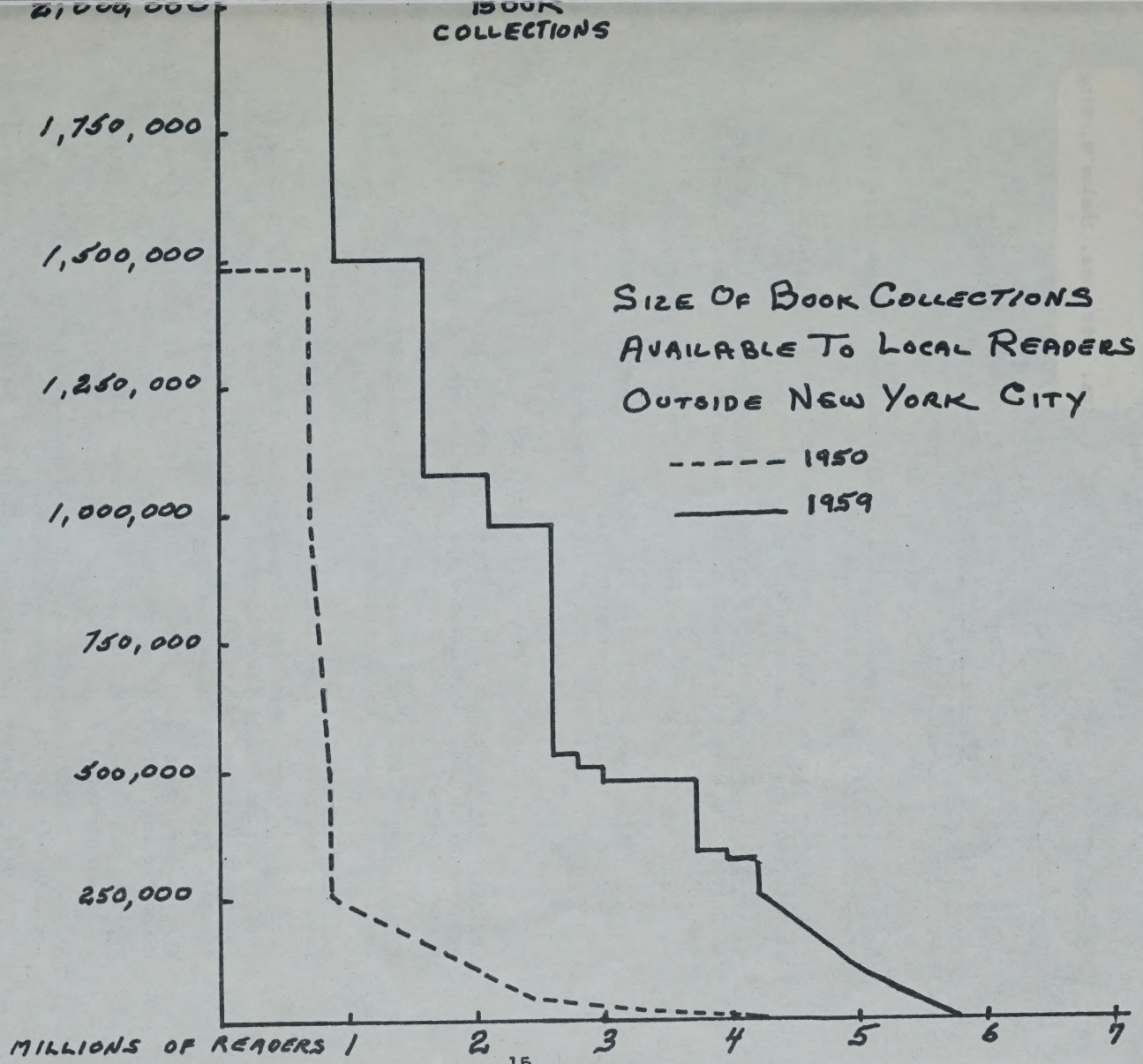
LARGER BOOK COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE TO MORE PEOPLE

The quality of library service which an individual enjoys is determined, by the range and the depth of the book collections to which he has access, more than by any other factor. Obviously, smaller libraries can buy scarcely more than a token few of the 12,000 or more book titles published annually in the United States alone.

One of the great benefits of systems of libraries is that through organized cooperation they bring the book resources of an entire region to all the residents of that region. The rural reader has access, both through his local library outlet, and directly, to the richest collections of the region. Where strong central libraries do not already exist in a system, State assistance is granted to strengthen the largest local library so that it can meet this responsibility.

The accompanying chart indicates the gains that have been made, largely through the establishment of systems of libraries, in improving the quality of library service by making available larger collections to more people.

In 1950 the only large collection upstate was in Buffalo where a million and a half volumes were available. With further consolidation of libraries and service areas there an additional 200,000 people were brought in, and the total collection now exceeds 2,000,000. Elsewhere upstate 3,000,000 people now have access to collections ranging from over a million volumes to 300,000, where formerly only 300,000 people had this advantage. The number of people unserved shows a reduction from nearly two million to one million.


BOOK COLLECTIONS
2,000,000
1,750,000
1,500,000
1,250,000
1,000,000
750,000
500,000
250,000
SIZE OF BOOK COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL READERS OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY
1950
1959
MILLIONS OF READERS
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Directory of

LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN NEW YORK STATE - January 1960

Consolidated Systems

3 0112 072760082

Chemung Co. Est. 1949. Pop. 86,827. Hq. Elmi

New York City. Approved 1950.
Kings Co. (Brooklyn P. L.) Pop. 2,738,175. Dir. Francis R. St. John.
Queens Co. (Queens Borough P. L.) Pop. 1,550,849. Dir. Harold S. Tucker.
Bronx, New York, and Richmond Cos. (New York P. L.) Pop. 3,602,933. Dir. Edward G. Freehafer.

Federated Systems

Erie Co. Est. 1947. Pop. 899,238. Co. financed. 25 member libraries. Hq. Buffalo. Dir. Joseph B. Rounds.

Clinton-Essex Co. Est. 1954. Pop. 88,708. 21 member libraries. Hq. Plattsburgh. Dir. Emma M. Walter.

Monroe-Livingston-Wayne Tri-Co. System. (Pioneer System) Approved 1956. Livingston and Wayne Cos. contract with Monroe Co. for central processing and inter-library loan service.
Monroe Co. Est. 1952. Pop. 487,632. 16 member libraries. Hq. Rochester. Dir. Harold S. Hacker.
Livingston Co. Est. 1955. Pop. 40,257. 7 member libraries. Hq. Geneseo. Dir. Mrs. Eleanor C. Harris.
Wayne Co. Est. 1955. Pop. 57,323. 10 member libraries. Hq. Newark. Dir. Mary S. Granger.

Cooperative Systems

Southern Adirondack. Est. 1958. Pop. 161,218. 19 libs. in Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Cos. Hq. Ballston Spa. Central lib.: Glens Falls. Dir. Florence Harshe.

Finger Lakes. Est. 1958. Pop. 132,139. 17 member libraries in Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins Cos. Hq. Ithaca. Dir. William Weitzel.

Southern Tier. Est. 1958. Pop. 99,803. 16 member libraries in Allegany, Steuben, and Yates Cos. Hq. Corning. Dir. Herbert Leet.

North Country. Est. 1958. (Watertown Regional Library Service Center est. 1948.) Contracts with State for provision of system services. Pop. 206,939. 55 member libraries in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Cos. Hq. Watertown. Central lib.: Ogdensburg and Watertown. Dir. Robert L. Carter.

Westchester. Est. 1958. Pop. 628,608. (1957 special census.) 33 member libs. Mount Vernon. Dir. Katharine M. Holden.

Nassau. Est. 1959. Pop. 519,605. 32 member libs. Hq. Hempstead. Dir. Lillian VanMater.

Nioga. Est. 1959. Pop. 242,677. 17 member libs. in Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee cos. Hq. Niagara Falls. Dir. _____.

Mohawk Valley Library Association. Est. 1959. Pop. 183,030. 6 member libs. in Schenectady, Schoharie and Montgomery cos. Dir. _____.

Mid-Hudson Libraries. Est. 1959. Pop. 283,667. 35 member libs. in Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster cos. Dir. _____.

Ramapo-Catskill Library System. Est. 1959. Pop. 266,353. 33 member libs. in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster cos. Dir. _____.